



STATE FIRE PREVENTION COMMISSION

MINUTES December 18, 2025

Members Present: Edward Tochterman, Chairman
Caroll H. Spriggs, II Vice-Chairman
Randy E. Sanger II, Commissioner
Ephraim Siff, Commissioner
Eric Smothers, Commissioner
Mark Hopkins, Commissioner
Jerred Johnson, Commissioner
Jamie McAllister, Commissioner

Members Absent: None

Vacancy: Southern Maryland / Volunteer Fire Company

Guests: Jason M. Mowbray, Acting Maryland State Fire Marshal
Ken Bush, Chief Fire Protection Engineer
Deputy Chief Caryn McMahon, Upper Eastern Region Office
Fire Protection Engineer Christopher Koch
Fire Protection Engineer Amaryllis Linero
Mary Beth Collins, Assistant Attorney General
Major Robert Iman MDSP
Terin Hopkins, National Fire Sprinkler Association

The Fire Prevention Commission held a public meeting December 18, 2025, at the Forensics Sciences Division located in Baltimore County, MD.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at about 10:02 a.m.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Office of the State Fire Marshal – Report Summary Acting Fire Marshal Jason M. Mowbray

Agenda Item: 2025 fire fatality update.

- **58 confirmed fatalities** in residential structures,
- **10 fatalities** associated with vehicle fires, and
- **5 fatalities** in other settings,

for a total of **73 confirmed fire deaths statewide**.

In **calendar year 2025**—which was only about a week and a half old when the data was pulled

- **35 confirmed fatalities** associated with residential fires,
- **5 fatalities** associated with vehicle fires, and
- **7 fatalities** in other settings,

A total of **47 confirmed fire deaths statewide**.

Currently, there are **16 deaths pending** at the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. There was also a multi-fatality fire incident, in the state.

As mentioned regularly, and consistent with what is expected based on population density, **Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Montgomery County, and Prince George’s County** continue to lead the state in fire fatalities.

Agenda Item: Investigations, Inspections and Plans review

As of this date the OSFM conducted approximately **900 fire, explosive, and other investigations**. That is right on track for a steady year of investigative activity.

The agency is just shy of **10,000 inspections**. That number is slightly down from last year due to staffing shortages. The agency lost a couple of full-time inspectors, and as a result, had to prioritize workload and were not able to get into our communities as frequently.

Finally, the OSFM **engineering staff**, while small, continues to complete a significant number of plan reviews across the state. The OSFM is currently at **just under 1,300 plan reviews** as of this report.

Agenda Item: Legislative Update

AFM Mowbray advised the Commission that the State is transitioning out of the calendar year and into the upcoming legislative session, which is expected to be a very active and busy legislative season for the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Several work groups originating from the prior legislative session remain active.

House Bill 468 – Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Work Group:

The House Bill 468 Lithium-Ion Battery Safety Work Group, on which Ken Bush represented the Office of the State Fire Marshal, consisted of members from diverse industries, professions, and areas of expertise. The work group completed a comprehensive report totaling approximately 70 pages. The report was approved by the work group and submitted to the General Assembly in the prior month. The report is publicly available for digital review, with a link accessible through the Office of the State Fire Marshal's website.

House Bill 222 – Fuel Gas Piping (CSST) Prohibition and Study Group:

The House Bill 222 Fuel Gas Piping (CSST) Prohibition and Study Group is ongoing. The Office of the State Fire Marshal is working in conjunction with the Maryland Department of Labor on this study. A preliminary report of activities has been submitted. The final report is due on **September 1, 2026**.

Deputy Chief Caryn McMahon and Fire Protection Engineer Derek Murgatroyd are serving on this work group and remain actively involved. The work group recently concluded meetings with industry professionals to gather additional input and information on the subject.

Senate Bill 436 – Single Staircase Building Code Study:

There are no updates at this time regarding Senate Bill 436, which concerns a study of building code requirements for single-staircase buildings. This work group is being led by the Department of Labor, with the Office of the State Fire Marshal providing support.

Agenda Item: Local Legislative Awareness – Baltimore City

AFM Mowbray advised the Commission of a local legislative development that, while not a State legislative matter, was noteworthy for awareness purposes.

It was reported that **Baltimore City Council Bill 25-0062** was passed, establishing a local ordinance permitting the construction of buildings up to **six stories with a single staircase**. It should be noted that this represents the first instance in Maryland where single-staircase construction is being addressed through a local ordinance rather than through the model building code process.

The timing of this local action is significant and expressed hope that the General Assembly will await the recommendations of the **Senate Bill 436 work group** before taking any statewide legislative action. The ordinance is now in effect within Baltimore City, it is an issue of which the Commission should remain aware.

Agenda Item: Significant Incident Review

AFM Mowbray advised that several significant incidents were detailed in the written report provided to the Commission and stated that the oral summary would be brief.

In **November 2025**, investigators responded to a **single-family dwelling fire in Clear Spring, Washington County**. Upon arrival, it was confirmed that **three victims** were located inside the residence. During the origin and cause investigation, investigators identified indicators suggesting that the victims may not have died as a result of the fire.

Based on these findings, the scene was secured, and the Office of the State Fire Marshal coordinated with the Maryland State Police Homicide Unit. The joint investigation determined that all three victims were homicide victims and that the fire had been intentionally set in an effort to conceal the crime.

With assistance from Office of the State Fire Marshal deputies, the Maryland State Police identified multiple suspects. As of the time of the report, four arrests had been made involving individuals from Baltimore and Hagerstown.

The incident as a tragic situation but noted that it was resolved quickly and as effectively as possible. The case was cited as an example of the strong working relationship and partnership between the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Maryland State Police.

Agenda Item: Personnel, Outreach, Training, and Data Systems Update

Personnel Updates:

AFM Mowbray reported the retirement of **Ms. Heidi Ritchie**, noting her many years of dedication and service to the Office of the State Fire Marshal and the significant institutional knowledge she provided to the agency.

AFM Mowbray advised the Commission of several personnel changes since the previous meeting. **Ms. Allison Nicodemus**, previously assigned to headquarters and responsible for NFIRS fire data reporting and the agency fee program, has been transferred to the Western Regional Office to serve as an Administrative Specialist. The work is ongoing to complete transition materials and a desk manual to support Commission staff functions, after which those responsibilities will transition to Ms. Nicodemus. Recruitment efforts are underway to backfill her former headquarters position to ensure continuity of NFIRS reporting and the fee program.

With approval from the Superintendent, a contractual employee was hired to manage public information act requests and records management. **Ms. Danielle Hackett** was welcomed into this role, and early feedback regarding her training and performance has been positive.

Additionally, the presenter reported the transfer of a deputy to the Upper Regional Office and announced the addition of the first **accelerant detection K-9 assigned to Western Maryland in approximately 20 years**. Deputy Adam Rounds and his K-9 partner completed ATF accelerant detection training in October and have already assisted with multiple cases.

Community Outreach and Community Risk Reduction (CRR):

Extensive community outreach and CRR activities during the fall season. These included partnerships with local organizations and law enforcement agencies for neighborhood cleanups, as well as participation in multiple trunk-or-treat events with State Police barracks and local volunteer fire departments. These events provided opportunities to engage with families and youth while promoting fire prevention and community safety messages.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray also reported on the successful Fall Community Risk Reduction Weekend, during which approximately **400 smoke alarms** and **64 carbon monoxide detectors** were installed statewide in homes most in need.

PIO Ngan Ho:

At the previous meeting, members were introduced to the agency's Public Information Officer, Ms. Nan Ho. Ms. Ho continues to work closely with the agency as she becomes familiar with her role and supports agency employees. Recent public information initiatives included highlighting the accelerant detection K-9 graduation with Deputy Rounds and conducting an employee spotlight featuring A.J., a Fire Protection Engineer. The agency is continuing to explore additional opportunities to expand these efforts.

Additionally, a promotional video was produced in support of the Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference. These efforts are part of an ongoing strategy to deliver fresh messaging, engage a broad audience within the community, and provide greater awareness of the agency's mission, priorities, and workforce. The agency expressed enthusiasm for continuing these outreach initiatives.

66th Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference:

In October, on the 24th, the agency supported the **66th Mid-Atlantic Life Safety Conference** held in Annapolis. The conference was highly successful. Attendees were treated to a keynote address by the DC Fire Chief, who discussed command and communication challenges during the Potomac River helicopter and plane crash. The event provided opportunities for engagement with multiple agencies, authorities having jurisdiction (AHJs), and vendors. The agency acknowledged and commended the planning committee for their efforts in making the program successful.

NFPA 1 and 101 Conference:

The agency hosted the **NFPA 1 and 101 Conference**. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) was thanked for supporting code enforcement personnel throughout the State. Due to high registration, a third session was added to accommodate demand, held consecutively over Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. This marked the first instance, to the agency's knowledge, that the Baltimore City Fire Department sent a contingent to the training, reflecting a positive and growing partnership.

Chief Engineer Ken Bush and his staff provided a Maryland-specific update on code amendments, covering changes from 2018 through 2024. Feedback from participants indicated that the program effectively brought attendees up to speed on state-specific regulations. The agency recognized Chief Bush and his staff for their contributions to the program's success.

NFIRS Reporting:

The **NFIRS reporting in the State is largely in compliance**, with the exception of one overdue submission from Kent County Rock Hall Fire Department covering February through June.

The U.S. Fire Administration is transitioning from the **outdated NFIRS system** to a new, secure system called **NERIS**, developed through UL Labs. NERIS is now live and accepting incident data nationwide, with over one million incidents submitted within the first day of operation. While the transition is not expected to be entirely smooth, the system is functioning effectively so far.

In Maryland, approximately **50% of fire departments have completed onboarding** to NERIS. Departments must validate their accounts, stations, apparatus, and administrative users before being able to submit data. Departments are instructed to submit **all calendar year 2025 data to NFIRS by the end of January 2026**, prior to NFIRS shutdown. Departments may begin entering 2025 data into NERIS for pilot testing, but NFIRS submissions remain required to verify compliance for federal 508 funding.

Independent fire departments within county systems may submit data under both the county umbrella and their own NERIS ID if seeking separate grant funding. Failure to validate independently may affect eligibility for grants such as the Fire Act Grant.

Deputy Chief Joe Walters has been actively assisting counties with onboarding and transition questions. Most departments using commercial Record Management Systems (RMS) are expected to interface smoothly with NERIS. Montgomery County, which uses a proprietary in-house EMS system, is receiving special support to ensure proper system integration via APIs.

An updated list of onboarding and verification status is included in the meeting packet. Departments and partners are encouraged to review the list and address any verification issues. Contact information for Deputy Chief Joe Walters, including email, phone, and a QR code linking to the NERIS resource page, is provided for assistance.

Questions for AFM Mowbray:

Questions from Chairman Tochterman:

Fatality Fire Investigations – Howard County:

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray reported that there has been **no significant update** since the last report in October regarding the six fatality fires in Howard County. Investigators continue to conduct follow-up work, including forensic review of video sources from the home and surrounding areas, to assist in determining the cause.

Staffing and Vacancies:

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray provided an update on agency vacancies:

- **Deputy Fire Marshal Positions:** Two vacancies exist. The agency plans to advertise these positions in January. Following the orientation meeting, candidates will proceed through a physical assessment test and written examination.
- **Administrative Positions:** Several vacancies are being advertised or prepared for posting, including a Policy Specialist to assist with policy development and compliance with Maryland laws, Department of State Police standards, and broader industry standards for inspections, investigations, and bomb squad operations. The PIO position and PIA Records Management position have been filled.
- **Inspector Positions:** Recruitment processes are ongoing, including interviews and background checks. Some applicants have been passed over as part of the process.
- **Administrative Specialist – Southern Maryland:** Recruitment was briefly delayed due to a hiring freeze but has resumed. Some candidates withdrew, and the process continues to fill the position.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray noted that several investigators are currently on light duty due to injuries or accidents. This temporary reduction in staff is being managed through reassignment of workloads. The agency remains optimistic that affected employees will return to full duty when recovered.

Comments from Vice Chairman Spriggs:

Vice Chairman Spriggs commended the agency and staff for their community outreach efforts, noting that these initiatives appear to be effective. He highlighted a significant decrease in fire fatalities for calendar year 2025, including a reported 30 percent reduction in Prince George's County. He encouraged publicizing this positive outcome to the broader community.

Comments from Commissioner McAllister:

Commissioner McAllister asked whether the State tracks not only the presence or absence of smoke alarms, but also their *specific location* within a residence. Referencing the Allegany County fatality, she noted that the report indicated the fire originated in a bedroom and that smoke alarms were present and operational. She inquired whether data is collected to distinguish alarm placement—such as in a hallway outside the bedroom versus inside the bedroom itself—as opposed to simply noting whether smoke alarms were installed.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray explained that smoke alarm location requirements are dependent on the age of the home, with older homes often having minimal requirements and newer construction requiring more comprehensive coverage. For purposes of the statewide report and the data generally presented, the State does not differentiate between specific smoke alarm locations (e.g., inside a bedroom versus outside).

He noted, however, that alarm placement details are often documented in individual investigative reports, including instances where mounting hardware or wiring is observed (for example, in bedroom hallways) but no smoke alarm is found. These details are captured in the narrative portions of investigative reports but are not broken out as discrete data fields in the summarized reports.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray further stated that, on the proactive Community Risk Reduction (CRR) side, smoke alarm and carbon monoxide detector installations conducted through programs such as Sound the Alarm do track the floors and general locations where devices are installed. This information is collected to improve data quality and to better understand alarm placement trends from a prevention perspective.

Comments from Commissioner Sanger:

Commissioner Sanger asked whether volunteer fire departments or departments that are part of a larger metropolitan or county system are required to register with NERIS in order to remain eligible for grant funding, and whether such departments are also required to submit separate incident reports.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray confirmed that registration with NERIS is required for grant eligibility, but explained that separate reporting is generally *not* required. He stated that reporting can be managed under a county umbrella through the county's records management system (RMS). Using Anne Arundel County as an example, he noted that volunteer departments may participate in the county's RMS for incident reporting, and that the system manages the separation and designation of data between individual departments and the county department.

He further explained that when data is uploaded to NERIS, the system identifies each department by its assigned NERIS ID, even when the submission is made through the county. As a result, volunteer departments are considered compliant without having to submit data separately from the county.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray added that, in cases where grant funding is not a consideration and reporting is centrally managed, counties may establish a single county-level NERIS ID and assign individual stations under that ID. This structure still allows data to be submitted collectively.

He noted that NERIS will significantly improve the ability to analyze fire incident data at the station level—and potentially at the apparatus level—which has been difficult or impossible under NFIRS due to bulk data uploads. He emphasized that this represents a major advancement in data quality and reporting capabilities.

Comments from Commissioner Smothers:

Commissioner Smothers congratulated Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray and his staff for their work over the past year, noting that fire prevention messaging appears to be reaching the public more effectively than in previous years. He agreed with prior comments that prevention efforts are having an impact, while also suggesting that additional outreach—such as public service announcements, television or radio advertising, and other non-social-media platforms—could further strengthen public awareness, subject to budget considerations.

Commissioner Smothers also raised concerns discussed at a recent MSFA meeting regarding the list of departments required to be verified for NERIS. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that this information is clearly communicated not only through the State Fire Marshal's Office, but also through local county fire associations, so departments fully understand the requirements and implications.

He noted that while departments may fall under a county or regional reporting umbrella, individual departments must still register separately with NERIS if they intend to seek individual grant funding. He stated that many volunteer departments, particularly in Western Maryland and Washington County, do not fully understand this requirement or how to access and navigate the system. As a result, some departments—especially volunteer companies—may need additional assistance compared to career jurisdictions.

Commissioner Smothers expressed his willingness to assist in disseminating information through MSFA and helping departments connect with the appropriate resources, acknowledging that some agencies may require more hands-on support. He concluded by again commending the Acting Fire Marshal and his staff for their efforts.

Office of the State Fire Marshal – Report Summary
Chief Fire Protection Engineer Ken Bush

Chief Bush greeted the Chair and members of the Commission, including those participating remotely, and extended a personal welcome to the newly appointed Commissioners. He expressed appreciation for their willingness to serve and noted that staff looked forward to working with them.

Chief Bush reported that the Office was pleased to host the NFPA code update training during the first week of December. The three-day training was well attended each day. He thanked the University of Maryland Fire and Rescue Institute (MFRI), Prince George's County Fire and Rescue Services, and the City for hosting the sessions. He noted that Sean Mahoney, Fire Protection Engineer with the National Fire Protection Association, provided comprehensive updates covering the transition from the 2018 code edition currently in use, through the 2021 edition, and into the newly adopted 2024 codes. He stated that these presentations effectively addressed all relevant code changes.

Chief Bush further explained that time was dedicated during each session to review Maryland-specific amendments to the State Fire Prevention Code. He noted that attendee engagement remained strong throughout the sessions, indicating the training was valuable and informative from both a local and model code perspective.

Turning to staffing, Chief Bush reported that the fire protection engineering team continues its work and recognized the presence of two staff members at the meeting. He highlighted the contributions of Clayton Dennies, a fire protection engineering intern and mechanical engineering student at Frostburg State University. He stated that Mr. Dennies played an integral role in developing presentation materials for the code training and continues to assist with implementation of the record management system alongside Fire Protection Engineer Derek Murgatroyd. Chief Bush also noted that there remain two vacant contract fire protection engineer positions that the Office continues efforts to fill.

Chief Bush provided an update on the lithium-ion battery safety workgroup, stating that the final report has been completed and submitted. He described the report as a comprehensive, 68-page document addressing lithium-ion battery risks across a wide range of applications, from consumer electronics to large-scale energy storage systems, including installation, protection, and disposal considerations. While noting that the study raised additional questions and areas for continued research, he emphasized that the work established a strong foundation. He added that the report is publicly available on the State Fire Marshal's website under the legislative workgroup section.

Chief Bush also reported on ongoing involvement with the Maryland Permitting Council, which is working to streamline the permitting process for new development projects across the State. He stated that six pilot projects are underway, two of which directly involve the State Fire Marshal's Office: the Bainbridge development in Cecil County and the Pimlico redevelopment project. He explained that these projects have highlighted the complexity and diversity of permitting pathways across state and local jurisdictions. He confirmed that all information requested from the Office for these projects has been provided and that the workgroup continues to meet. A quarterly report is due January 21, 2026, with a final report scheduled for June 30, 2026. He stated that the Commission will be kept informed of future developments.

Chief Bush concluded his report by extending holiday well-wishes.

Chairman Tochterman asked whether the lithium-ion battery safety work might influence changes to the 2027 model codes.

Chief Bush responded that changes to model codes are already occurring based on ongoing studies. He noted that local jurisdictions have begun implementing measures related to charging locations, separation distances, battery sizes, charger types, and dedicated rooms for charging. He stated that the findings from the report could influence the 2027 codes as conditions continue to evolve, emphasizing that the study is ongoing and not the final word on the issue.

Chairman Tochterman thanked Chief Bush for the report and response.

Chairman Tochterman comments:

The Chair addressed the first item of business, **approval of the August 21 meeting minutes**. He noted that the October meeting did not have a quorum and, therefore, no official business could be conducted at that time, making the August 21 minutes the next set requiring approval.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the August 21 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The Chair then addressed the **approval of the October 16 meeting minutes**, noting that although a quorum was not present, minutes were still prepared for the record. He asked whether there were any changes.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the October 16 minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

Outstanding Issue: Non sprinklered High-Rise Residential Buildings

(Referenced in August 21 Minutes, Page 6)

The Chair raised an outstanding issue carried forward from prior meetings regarding non sprinklered high-rise residential buildings in Montgomery County and Prince George’s County. He noted that a motion passed unanimously at the August 21 meeting directing inspections of such buildings; however, subsequent legal guidance from the Maryland State Police Principal Counsel, consistent with prior advice from the Assistant Attorney General, concluded that Section 6-206 does not grant the Commission authority to conduct inspections.

The Chair provided historical context, noting that the Commission has addressed non sprinklered high-rise buildings since 2018. In April 2019, the Commission previously designated such buildings as an “immovable hazard,” a position later overturned. In August, the Commission again expressed interest in evaluating these buildings through inspections in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties.

The Chair asked for Commissioner comments.

Commissioner Hopkins stated that Section 6-206 is silent on inspections and therefore neither expressly authorizes nor prohibits them. He reiterated his concern about leaving the issue dormant and emphasized the need for proactive action. He offered to develop a plan for the next meeting and made a motion to continue moving forward with the concept.

Commissioner Johnson seconded the motion but cautioned that the term “*inspection*” could be problematic given the lack of authority. He suggested reframing the effort as an “*observation*” or “*survey*” to avoid legal and jurisdictional concerns.

Commissioner McCallister requested clarification on the scope and intent of the proposed effort. Commissioner Hopkins explained that the intent would be a holistic, data-gathering approach, examining existing fire protection and life safety features (e.g., alarms,

compartmentation, standpipes, voice evacuation systems), similar in concept to a Fire Safety Evaluation System (FSES), but not applying code retroactively. The goal would be to move beyond abstract discussions and better understand conditions within representative buildings.

Commissioner Smothers raised concerns that changing terminology from “inspection” to “survey” does not resolve the underlying legal issue. He stated that without statutory authority, the Commission cannot enter properties for either purpose and suggested that legislative changes would be required before any such activity could occur.

Commissioner Siff expressed opposition to the Commission conducting inspections or surveys, stating that such activities fall within the purview of the State Fire Marshal’s Office and delegated local authorities. He cautioned against actions that could interfere with established working relationships between the State Fire Marshal’s Office and local jurisdictions.

The Chair confirmed with Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray that Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties conduct their own inspections under delegated authority. Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray confirmed this and stated that while the State Fire Marshal’s Office has authority, inspections in those jurisdictions are typically handled locally, with the State providing assistance upon request.

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray suggested that a collaborative discussion with Montgomery County, Prince George’s County, and Baltimore City—where the greatest concentration of non sprinklered high-rise residential buildings exists—would be a constructive first step. He emphasized that requesting information or discussing existing practices would not strain relationships, but directing jurisdictions to take specific actions could create confusion. He recommended a partnership-based approach involving both local jurisdictions and the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Based on this discussion, the Chair proposed an alternative approach: drafting a letter to Montgomery County and Prince George’s County requesting information regarding existing inspections, data, or plans related to non sprinklered high-rise residential buildings, rather than the Commission conducting inspections directly.

Commissioner Hopkins agreed that this approach would satisfy the intent of his motion and emphasized the importance of proactive engagement.

The Chair stated he would draft a proposed letter and circulate it to the full Commission for review prior to issuance.

At that point, **Commissioner Hopkins formally withdrew his motion, and Commissioner Johnson withdrew his second.**

The Chair then informally polled Commissioners regarding support for a letter:

- **Vice Chair Spriggs:** Abstained
- **Commissioner Hopkins:** Supported
- **Commissioner Johnson:** Supported
- **Commissioner McCallister:** Supported with caveats that the letter clearly defines the specific data requested, transparency in how the data would be used, and acknowledgment that the data may exceed what is normally available
- **Commissioner Sanger:** Supported, emphasizing cooperation rather than mandates
- **Commissioner Siff:** Expressed concern and deferred to the State Fire Marshal's Office
- **Commissioner Smothers:** Opposed in the current format; supported a coordinated, non-mandated request aligned with recommendations from the Fire Marshal's Office

Acting Fire Marshal Mowbray reiterated that a coordinated request for information—rather than directives—would be appropriate and would not negatively affect professional relationships.

The Chair concluded that any correspondence would be framed as a cooperative, fact-finding request, not a mandate, and would be coordinated appropriately.

Review of the OSFM fee schedule:

The Chairman noted that a review of the fee schedule had been placed on the agenda; however, in the interest of time, he recommended postponing this item until the February meeting.

Nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman:

The Chairman stated that the final item of business was the election of a new Chair and opened the floor for nominations.

A motion was made to nominate Commissioner Carroll Spriggs for the position of Chairman. The nomination was seconded. Upon inquiry, Commissioner Spriggs accepted the nomination.

Hearing no additional nominations, nominations were closed, and Commissioner Spriggs was elected Chairman by acclamation.

With the election of a new Chairman, the position of Vice Chairman became vacant. Chairman Spriggs nominated Commissioner Hopkins for the position of Vice Chairman. The nomination was seconded. Commissioner Hopkins accepted the nomination.

Hearing no further nominations, Commissioner Hopkins was elected Vice Chairman by acclamation.

Final Business to come to the table:

The Chairman inquired whether there was any additional business to come before the Commission.

The Chairman noted a prior communication regarding February 11 and invited Terin Hopkins to elaborate. Terin Hopkins advised that the Capital Region Fire Sprinkler Association would be holding its annual training at the University of Maryland on February 11. He further noted that the first presentation would address the work group findings related to the High-Rise Retrofit legislation (House Bill 823), with the presentation to be delivered by Brandon McCarrick, who was instrumental in compiling the work group information. Commissioner Hopkins indicated that this presentation might be of interest to members of the Commission.

There were no additional comments from the Commission.

The Chair thanked the members for their service.

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at about 11:33 a.m.

Next Meeting:

To be determined at a later date.

Respectfully submitted,

**Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal
Carl D. Witmer**

(as summarized from transcript provided by eScribers),